

August 23, 1967

Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200740003-9

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H11007

That is why I should like to see this program become an effective tool for famine prevention—just that—and hopefully get away from other side activities.

The social unrest, the revolution which could easily be bred in famine conditions is one which will demand the attention of our country, whether we really want to be involved or not. It is an ominous picture that lies ahead.

As a first-year member of the committee, I want to express my appreciation to the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Morgan] and to the gentleman from Ohio [Mrs. Borron] ranking minority member, and other members of the committee who have been very generous in their cooperation with attempts I have made to redirect the program toward famine prevention.

I have always felt that our country, as the preeminent leader of the free world, has to act effectively in foreign policy. One way is with arms. Another way is with dollars.

I would hope we will not face this legislative task this week merely as one of either accepting or rejecting a proposal, but rather as an effort to use our dollars wisely.

The other topic which I should like to call to the attention of Members is an amendment which I plan to offer at the proper time. I bring it up now merely to give the Members an opportunity to question me about it, should they have any questions. It is a proposal to amend the Foreign Assistance Act in a manner which will suspend most favored nation treatment for the Government of Poland until our President has assurances that that government is no longer supplying weapons to our enemy in North Vietnam.

Poland, I regret to say, is the only country which enjoys this favored tariff treatment which is admittedly supplying weapons to our enemy in Vietnam. My amendment will suspend this privilege until such time as the President determines that Poland's arms shipments to the enemy have stopped or until combat operations in Vietnam have terminated. This privilege for Poland was authorized by means of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1963. My amendment would go to that provision. Earlier this privilege had been withdrawn not only from Poland but from the Soviet Union and every other Communist bloc country during the Korean war. It is my feeling that any country which does supply weapons to the enemy should certainly not enjoy the economic privileges under our Tariff Act.

I am very glad to yield to my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

I also am deeply concerned and sympathize with the gentleman's intentions. I appreciate his sending his memorandum on this subject to the Members of the House. But I also note that he bases his determination that Poland is sending military arms to North Vietnam on a boastful statement of a Polish Communist minister. Is that the only source of the gentleman's information? I ask that because I have not been able to substantiate the fact or the extent of the

alleged arms shipments by Poland to North Vietnam.

Mr. FINDLEY. No. I might say another and perhaps even more impressive bit of evidence is the text of an address made by the Defense Minister of Poland to the War Academy in Poland as taken down and reported by our State Department's Radio Broadcast Reporting Service. In that speech the Defense Minister very plainly stated that Poland had supplied useful weapons of war, admittedly of World War II vintage, but he said they were effective weapons in the hands of the North Vietnamese. He also alluded to aid that socialist countries, presumably including Poland itself, were supplied in the form of more sophisticated weaponry. From that it was very plain that the top defense official of the Government of Poland was frankly announcing not only to these cadets before him but to the entire world that Poland was actively supplying weapons of war to North Vietnam.

Another official I cited was reported by the Associated Press as having gone to Hanoi and there inspected an antiaircraft unit which was provided, engineered, supplied, and supported by Poland. That antiaircraft unit was given credit for shooting down or damaging 50 U.S. aircraft.

So I would say taking together these two bits of information, they do constitute rather substantial evidence especially in view of the fact that there has been no disavowal of this from any public source in Poland.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. FINDLEY. Yes, indeed.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. I am familiar with the Polish minister's statement, but I submit to the gentleman that this is the only evidence from Communist officials. As the gentleman knows, I have attempted to obtain a substantiation or factual figures from responsible U.S. officials such as our Ambassador to Poland, and they cannot come up with any figures.

Has the gentleman received any evidence from U.S. intelligence agencies, such as the CIA or the Defense Department?

Mr. FINDLEY. As the gentleman knows very well, I am not at liberty to quote what is in those reports, but I do have a report which does have evidence in it which I will be glad to show him.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Of military equipment?

Mr. FINDLEY. It includes an item of that sort and also relates to the level of the general trade between Poland and Vietnam which has been rising.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Yes. As far as the general trade and shipments to North Vietnam, that has been rising, but I am rather concerned about the military shipment of arms.

Mr. FINDLEY. Is it not reasonable, really, to conclude that arms shipments are going forward, if the No. 2 Communist in Poland brags about the effect of Polish arms, and if the top official of the Department of Defense of Poland also verifies the fact that arms have been going forward and will continue to go forward?

Mr. ZABLOCKI. According to the gentleman's statement, this is the only evidence we have which would lead us to assume that the alleged assistance is indeed being provided. On the other hand, I have yet to find a Communist whom I would trust to be very truthful.

Mr. FINDLEY. I think that, perhaps, that might be one more added reason for us to suspend this most-favored-nation treatment.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FINDLEY. Yes, indeed; I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Mr. Chairman, along the line of the colloquy which has been had between the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FINDLEY] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ZABLOCKI], I would like to advise the House that I have in my hand a report here from the Department of Commerce which contains a black list of vessels that have been trading with North Vietnam. And, here, I have the names of 23 ships that have been to North Vietnam since January 25, 1966, a list which I shall be glad to make available to anyone who would like to look at it.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

Mrs. BOLTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FINDLEY. I did not catch the last part of the gentleman's statement.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. I have in my hand a list of 23 vessels, totaling 177,490 tons of cargo capacity—

Mr. FINDLEY. Are these Polish-registered vessels?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. These are Polish ships, flying the Polish flag, that have sailed to North Vietnam in the last 13 months.

Mr. FINDLEY. I might repeat that Poland is the only country now enjoying most-favored-nation treatment which is admittedly shipping weapons to North Vietnam. If arms aid by other favored nations comes to light, I would certainly support similar treatment for them.

Mr. MONAGAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FINDLEY. I am glad to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MONAGAN. I would like to ask the gentleman if his amendment passes and becomes law, what would be the effect upon the capacity of the Polish Government to earn dollars and to pay off loans which we have made to the Polish Government, loans which must be repaid in dollars?

Mr. FINDLEY. Well, unhappily, our Government seems determined to renegotiate these dollar debts to the advantage of Poland anyway. But, putting that aside, I feel our preeminent responsibility is our debt to our men in uniform who are now serving in South Vietnam, who are fighting the war, and I think this should take precedence over any monetary consideration to which you allude.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Illinois has again expired.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. ROSENTHAL].